

NSC BRIEFING

3 July 1957

WEEDS AMONG MAO'S HUNDRED FLOWERS

- I. Ostensibly inspired by Mao's "hundred flowers" dictum, some high-ranking non-Communist officials of the Peiping regime have been publicly attacking the Chinese Communist Party and its policies.
- II. However, Mao's recently published speech set limits on criticism, and labelled attacks on the Party and fundamental policy "impermissible."
 - A. Concurrently, erring officials came under fire for "right deviations."
- III. People's Daily, party mouthpiece, now says reason press published criticism with no rebuttal was to make "bourgeois reactionary rightists" show themselves. "We told the enemy in advance that before 'monsters and serpents' can be wiped out they first must be brought into the open, and only by letting the poisonous weeds show themselves above ground can they be uprooted."
- IV. So far, we see no indication that these officials will suffer anything more drastic than losing their jobs. Regime seems primarily interested in defining limits of permissible criticism.

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